Clinical Pearls for Emergency Care of the Bariatric Surgery Patient

**BARIATRIC COMPLICATIONS:**
- Intraperitoneal Bleeding
- Leaks and Sepsis
- Obstruction
- Pulmonary Embolism
- Vomiting ± Abdominal Pain
- Abdominal Compartment Syndrome

**EMERGENCY PRESENTATIONS:**
1. Unstable Vital Signs
   - Fever > 101°F
   - Hypotension
   - Tachycardia > 120 bpm × 4 hours
   - Tachypnea
   - Hypoxia
   - Decreased urine output

2. Bright Red Blood by Mouth or Rectum, Melena, Bloody Drainage

3. Abdominal Pain or Colic > 4 hours

4. Nausea ± Vomiting > 4 hours

5. Vomiting ± Abdominal Pain

**INTRA-ABDOMINAL BLEEDING**

**I. Emergency Presentation**
- Bright Red Blood Oral or Rectal, Melena, Bloody Drainage, Tachycardia, Hypotension, Faintness
- 48 hours postoperatively indicates potential bowel ischemia
- Sepsis: peripheral abscesses, perforation, peritonitis, peritonitis, or septic shock

**II. Emergency Assessment and Treatment**
- Vital signs
- Blood pressure
- Core temperature
- Pulse oximetry
-Thoracic cage
- Intubation
- Intravenous access
- Urine output
- Urinary catheter
- Chest X-ray
- Abdominal CT

**III. To Surgery if:**
- Hypotension
- Deep or persistent tachycardia
- Imaging findings consistent with intraabdominal bleeding
- Hemodynamic instability
- Hemodynamic collapse
- Persistent intraabdominal bleeding

**PULMONARY EMBOLISM**

**I. Emergency Presentation**
- Unstable vital signs with tachycardia ± chest pain
- Hemodynamic instability
- Difficulty breathing
- Hypoxia
- Hypotension
- Changes in mental status

**II. Emergency Treatment**
- Anticoagulation
- Thrombolysis
- Vascular surgery
- Surgical embolectomy

**VOMITING ± ABDOMINAL PAIN**

**I. Emergency Presentation**
- Vomiting associated with abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Abdominal distension
- Hypotension
- Hypothermia
- Changes in mental status

**II. Emergency Treatment**
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal distension
- Hypotension
- Hypothermia
- Changes in mental status

**CLINICAL PATHWAY FOR EVALUATION OF VOMITING (V) / ABDOMINAL PAIN**

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**ABDOMINAL COMPARTMENT SYNDROME**

**I. Emergency Presentation**
- Progressive respiratory insufficiency
- Hypotension
- Hypothermia
- Hypoxemia
- Hypotension

**II. Emergency Treatment**
- Early recognition and treatment
- Diuresis
- Fluid resuscitation
- GA
- Tubing
- Fluids

**ADJUSTABLE GASTRIC BAND**
- Fixed rate of adjustment
- Appropriate for most bariatric procedures

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